

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**
 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 16 Nov. 1951

SUBJECT Bacteriological Research in the German Democratic Republic (DDR)

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1A

ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO.**DO NOT CIRCULATE**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

REFERENCE COPY

1. Source knows of no research or development in the DDR which might be part of a Russian bacteriological warfare program. When asked about experiments on the storing of bacteria, he stated that he knew of the following three research projects in the DDR in this field:
 - a. Bacteriological research at the Zentral-Kontroll-Institut für Veterinär-Impfstoffe, Berlin NW-7, Hannoversche Strasse, under Dr. Ullrich*, a first assistant (Oberassistent). Ullrich published the results of his work in either the first or the second Heft für Experimentale Veterinärmedizin (published by the Hirzel Verlag in Leipzig, editors Rochner, Lorch and Gohrs) in an article entitled Haltbarkeit von Abortusbacillen (durability of Bang's bacteria). Ullrich was able to keep his bacteria alive and virulent in a vacuum for one year. He is now working on a new method using a centrifuge in a vacuum.
 - b. Asid Serum-Institut (VVB Pharma), Dessau, has experimented and is now in the developmental stage on a project entitled, Haltbarmachung lebender Kolikaine (process of keeping coli bacilli alive). Source states that the method used by Asid is essentially the American method of Motts and Flossdorf.
 - c. Professor Dr. Hans Knöll of Jonapharm in Jena has been working in this field with the method of drying colon bacilli over sulphuric acid in a vacuum.
2. In 1950 and 1951, the DDR Office for Research and Technology granted Asid a total of 52,000 DM for research in the field of colon and tetanus bacteria. Such loans are always issued by the Office for Research and Technology after preliminary screening by the pertinent division of the DDR Ministry responsible for the requesting installation. Thus the application of Asid was processed initially by the IV-Chemie in the Ministry for Heavy Industry. The responsible man in the Office for Research and Technology for pharmaceutical research is Dr. Förster, a biologist. Förster is responsible to Hauptabteilungsleiter Lichtenberg. The specialist for research matters in IV-Chemie is Professor Hähnel, a man of 66 who comes from Stuttgart. Hähnel's assistant is Pötsch, formerly associated with the hydrogenation works in Rodleben.

25X1A

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

-2-

3. Dr. Knöll has applied for about 10,000 DM from the Office for Research and Technology to continue his research in the preservation of bacteria through Professor Hähnel. Dr. Ullrich obtained an undetermined sum of money for his research from the ORT through the Ministry for Agriculture, to which his institute is responsible. Knöll's forte is stated by source to be his organizing ability. Knöll, together with a group of chemical engineers, has worked out plans for a factory for the production of streptomycin. The plant is to cost 15,000,000 DM, but it is not yet certain that the factory will be built in the DDR, much less that Knöll will be put in charge of it. There are rumors that the final decision may be to build this factory in Czechoslovakia or Poland instead of the DDR. Until recently, Knöll was also hoping to be given the production contract for chloromycetin, but it was finally given to the Schering firm instead. Source has heard that Knöll has been having difficulties developing a plan for the production of pro-penicillin on a novocaine basis.
4. As announced in the press, Professor Roehrer and his colleagues at the Riems Island Research Institute, received valuable National Prizes from the DDR in October 1951 for having prevented hoof and mouth disease. Source believes that these awards must have been made in early spring of 1951, as hoof and mouth disease has been epizootic since May or June 1951. During the winter of 1950/1951, there was a general campaign to immunize cattle in the DDR against hoof and mouth disease, conducted by Professor Roehrer. To this end, the Riems Institute devoted itself almost entirely to the production of the necessary serum, involving the slaughtering of up to 12,000 cattle per month. The hoof and mouth situation in the DDR is now very serious according to source, and even the immunized animals are becoming infected. Goats and pigs are especially hard hit (they had not been immunized). Source believes that the virus underwent a physical change in passing through the bodies of goats and pigs and was not affected by the original immunization. Source remarked that the population of the DDR would soon feel the effects of the situation in shortened fat and meat rations.
5. Other research projects at Riems are the following:
 - a. Infectious anemia of solipeds (Einhufer)
 - b. Newcastle Disease (poultry pest)
 - c. Distemper of dogs (Roehrer wishes to transfer the production of this serum to Asid).

Results of research at Riems have been published regularly for about a year in the Hefte für Experimentale Veterinärmedizin.

6. There were no deliveries from Asid to the USSR during 1950 and 1951, but very small amounts of diphtheria and tetanus sera have been shipped to Korea.
7. Frau Schmel, chief of the diphtheria and tetanus laboratory at Asid is now required to take her sera to Prague for testing. Until recently, it had been the practice to have these tests made at the University of Marburg by Professor Brücke.

25X1A * [REDACTED] Comment: Probably Dr. Konrad Ullrich, born 6 November 1903 in Fasangarten, as listed in Handbuch der deutschen Wissenschaft 1949.

SECRET